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# The Friday Letter

Vol. 6 No. 5

September 26, 1986

## On the Hill



The full Senate Committee on Appropriations has reported the USDA Appropriations Bill for FY 1987, H.R. 5177, as follows:

### Child Nutrition Programs:

School Lunch Program	\$ 557,092,000
Special assistance for free and reduced price lunches	2,355,993,000
School Breakfast Program	436,423,000
State Administrative Expenses	51,217,000
Summer Food Service Program	132,748,000
Child Care Food Program	541,733,000
Commodity procurement	150,941,000
Nutrition studies and surveys	2,470,000
Nutrition Education and Training	5,000,000
	<u>\$4,233,617,000</u>
Special Milk Program	14,869,000
WIC	1,655,494,000
Commodity Supplemental Food Program	41,497,000
Food Stamp Program (includes \$852,750,000 for Puerto Rico)	12,684,665,000
Elderly Feeding Program	137,157,000
Needy Family Program	56,432,000
TEFAP	50,000,000
Food Program Administration	83,563,000

The bill has not yet been scheduled for Senate action. The House has already passed its version.

- Frank Ippolito

## And The Rain Came, And Came, And Came

The rain came, but the intrepid folks at FNS refused to let it dampen their spirits. Huddled under the food and beverage pavillion roofs, they sampled fine foods prepared by hardworking FNS volunteers, consumed exotic beer or more mundane beverages, and enjoyed the closeness created by the unyielding rain.



Although the games and magic show were rained out, many of the scheduled contests were held. Categories and winners were:

- o Catastrophic Chili Contest
  - Beverly King (FD) - Without Beans
  - Vernon Morgan (PE) - With Beans
  - Bill Sherriff (PE) - Best Aftertaste
- o Best Dessert Contest
  - Ellen Hennigan (FN) - Cookies
  - Arlene Reed (AC) - Cakes
  - Carol Stobaugh (FN) - Pies
  - Annette Espinoza (AD) - Other

Continued on page 2



Continued from page 1

- o Most Unusual T-Shirt Contest
  - Alberta Frost (FD) - Farthest Travel
  - Christy Schmidt (AE) - Best Slogan
  - Jessica Gariazzo (PD) - Most Obnoxious
  - Darlene Bryant (RO) - Best Fit
- o Color T.V. Door Prize (donated by Jack Radzikowski (RO) was won by Terry Hallberg (CN).



Marvin Eskin (FD) offers one of his famous hot dogs to Mae Brooks, a guest at the picnic.



Anthony Grimm (BU) tries to sweet talk Katie Washington (BU) into a piece of cake.



Associate Administrator Sonia Crow serves Patty von Reyn (FN) and daughter Anna some of the delicious ribs prepared by the Administrator's office.



Despite the rain, Larry Rana's (PI) daughters (left to right) Margie, Cathy, and Judy kept smiling and made the best of a wet situation.

## USDA Adjusts Food Stamp Benefits for Cost of Living

Food stamp benefits will increase slightly on October 1, 1986, as USDA updates allotment levels for changes in the cost of food.

USDA bases food stamp benefits on the actual cost of foods in the Thrifty Food Plan, a low cost plan of nutritious meals that meets dietary standards for families of certain sizes. The new allotments reflect the June 1986 cost of buying food under the Thrifty Food Plan.

The maximum monthly allotment for a family of four with no net income will rise from \$268 to \$271. USDA adjusts the benefit levels annually.

The maximum monthly food stamp allotments, effective from October 1, 1986, through September 30, 1987, in the continental U.S. are as follows:

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ALLOTMENT
1	\$ 81
2	149
3	214
4	271
5	322
6	387
7	428
8	489
Each additional member add	\$ 61

The deductions used in calculating eligibility and the amount of food stamps a household receives also will be indexed for inflation on October 1. The standard deduction, which is available to all households, will rise from \$98 to \$99 for the continental U.S. Another deduction available to certain households with high shelter costs will rise from a maximum of \$147 to \$149. These adjustments reflect changes in certain components of the Consumer Price Index.

## New Director Appointed for Office of Analysis and Evaluation

S. Anna Kondratas has been named the new Director of the Office of Analysis and Evaluation. Previously she was a senior policy analyst and the Schultz Fellow in Social Welfare Policy at The Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C.

A former Fulbright Scholar in Poland, she earned her B.A. magna cum laude at Harvard University and an M.B.A. in managerial economics at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

Ms. Kondratas has published numerous articles on the subject of poverty, welfare, and entitlement reform, and has been a frequent public speaker on these issues. She has been working on a book on a conservative alternative to the welfare state (with coauthor Stuart Butler), which will be published by Free Press, a division of Macmillan, New York, in 1987.

We all welcome Ms. Kondratas to FNS and look forward to working with her. She will assume her new position on September 29, 1985.



Take Pride in America logo



## **Levi Thompson Receives Superior Service Award**

There are lots of people who want to know about USDA's food assistance programs, and Levi Thompson has helped many of them.

Thompson, who has been part of FNS' public information staff for 14 years, plays a key role in getting information to the public. In June, his outstanding contribution to the work of USDA was recognized with a superior service award, the highest honor awarded by the Department for distinguished public service.

Thompson was among 79 individuals and 19 groups who received awards in this year's Fortieth Annual Awards Ceremony. In presenting the awards, Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng stated: "This year's awardees should be extremely proud of their accomplishments. To the extent that they have contributed to this Nation's agricultural prosperity and have continued a century-old tradition, I wish to commend them and to say how proud I am that they are proud of this Department."

Thompson received his award "for exceptional contributions to the efficiency of FNS' publications program, including effective inventory control, timely bulk distributions, and outstanding responsiveness to the public."

Thompson is FNS' main link with interested citizens who want to know more about USDA's food programs. He keeps a flow of pamphlets and informational materials going out in answer to written requests and also receives numerous telephone requests. In the busy season, September, when students are back in school, he often handles 200 to 300 letters a week.

Levi Thompson's helpfulness to the public and his fellow workers builds goodwill for all Government employees.



Administrator Leard congratulates Levi Thompson on having received a superior service award.

-Story by Gene Vincent  
Public Information Staff

## Deputy Regional Administrators Divvy Up Regional Pot

The Deputy Regional Administrators from all seven regions met in Alexandria to discuss FPA allocations. Their charge was to decide how to allocate FPA funds equitably among the regions. A first step, taken during the September 9-10, 1986, meeting, was to agree on which workload factors are most critical to the use of FPA funds.

These factors, which include such things as the number of State agencies, number of food stamp retailer authorizations, and pounds of commodities distributed, were then assigned relative weights. The resultant formula will be considered in FY 1987 funding decisions affecting regional offices.

This Regional Staffing Study updates a similar study done in 1984. It is but one piece of a larger analysis to look at the methodology for FPA allocations agencywide. The rest of the larger analysis is slated for completion during the upcoming fiscal year.

Despite the difficulty in getting seven people to agree on a fair way to divide funds, the Deputy Regional Administrators left town smiling.



Each Deputy Regional Administrator tries to convince Regional Operations staff that they need the largest share of the pot. Shown above are (from left) Tom Pate, MWRO; Mike Montgomery, SWRO; Miguel Valdivielso, NERO; John "Mac" McClellan, MARO; Jack Boozer, WRO; Arvid Dobson, SERO; Barbara Sandoval, MPRO (not shown); and Art French, Ron Vogel, and David Temoshok, ORO.



## Cooperation With State Agency A Two-Way Street

For the past 14 months or so, unfamiliar faces in the Mountain Plains Regional Office have offered evidence of a cooperative arrangement that's yielding multiple benefits to both FNS and the State of Colorado. Colorado's Social Services food distribution staff—sometimes from the Denver area, sometimes from all areas of the State—have been meeting periodically on FNS terrain.

About a year ago, just prior to the implementation of Colorado's commercial food distribution system, Social Services needed to hold some informational meetings on the system and didn't have an adequate, centrally

located facility. FNS volunteered the use of its conference room and audiovisual equipment. The idea worked so well that—despite some ups and downs when Colorado's single-source distributor decamped and the State had to start over from scratch—it's still going strong.

According to Mary Nielsen of MPRO's Food Distribution Programs (FDP) staff, the meetings keep State users abreast of the status of the system and its transitional progress. In addition, she says, FDP staff are currently better informed, since they also sit in on the meetings. The most recent meeting took place July 22.

—article by Joanne Widner



## Food Programs Participation Update

Following are preliminary estimates of participation in the Federal-State food assistance programs for the month of July with comparisons to the previous month and to the same month of last year.

	<u>July 1985</u>	<u>June 1986</u>	<u>July 1986</u> <u>2/</u>
<u>Food Stamp Program: 1/</u>			
People participating (mil.) .....	19.3	19.3	19.1
Value of bonus coupons (\$ mil.) .....	858.0	877.2	871.7
Average bonus per person .....	\$ 44.53	\$ 45.34	\$ 45.69
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	939.1	967.4	961.9
<u>Child Care Food Program:</u>			
Number of meals served in centers (mil.) .....	25.5	27.7	26.4
Number of meals served in homes (mil.) .....	21.1	23.1	22.7
Percentage of all meals served free .....	76.3	76.6	76.6
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	33.1	35.9	36.0
<u>Summer Food Service Program:</u>			
Number of meals served (mil.) .....	42.5	13.8	42.6
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	62.4	22.2	65.6
<u>Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC):</u>			
People participating (mil.) .....	3.2	3.3	3.3
Food cost (\$ mil.) .....	101.4	104.9	104.2
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	125.8	131.9	134.7
<u>Commodity Supplemental Food Program:</u>			
People participating (thous.) .....	141.8	134.0	137.4
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	2.4	2.1	2.1
<u>Food Distribution to Indians and Needy Families:</u>			
Number of projects in operation .....	102	105	106
People participating (thous.) .....	146.0	147.5	152.4
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	4.3	4.3	4.0

1/ Puerto Rico has been excluded from all months.

2/ Data collected as of September 23, 1986.

Note: No data are provided for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs during the summer months.

Food and Nutrition Service  
Program Information Division



## Job Opportunities

FNS is seeking to fill the following vacant positions. To be considered for one of them, submit an up-to-date SF-171, Personal Qualifications Statement, and current performance appraisal to the appropriate personnel office. If you're interested in a Headquarters position, apply to the Employment Branch, Personnel Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alexan-

dria, Virginia 22302. Apply directly to Headquarters office for all GM-14 and 15 positions. For Regional positions, directly to the Regional Office. For details on the requirements for any of the positions listed below, consult the official vacancy announcement. These are posted on designated bulletin boards or you can get copies from the appropriate Regional or Headquarters personnel office.

### Friday Letter Vacancy Listing By Vacancy Number

Job Title	Series	Grade	Closing Date	Vacancy Number	Organizational Unit
**Clerk/Typist	GS-322	2/3/4	Open until filled	86-35	PED
***Statistician (General) (2 Positions)	GS-1530	12	10-6-86	86-37	PAD
***Accountant	GS-510	5/7	10-6-86	86-38	FM
****Secretary Typing	GS-318	5	10-6-86	86-40	PID
*****Secretary Typing	GS-318	5/6	10-6-86	86-41	ASD
*****Budget Analyst	GS-560	5/7	10-14-86	86-42	FM
***Budget Analyst (Schedule B)	GS-560	5/7	10-14-86	86-42A	FM
*****Program Manager	GS-340	12	10-20-86	86-43	IRMD
***Nutritionist	GS-630	7	10-6-86	86-H-20	HNIS
*****Management Assistant	GS-334	7	10-1-86	86-H-21	HNIS
Food Program Specialist	GS-120	9	*	*	MARO
Food Program Specialist	GS-120	9	*	*	MARO

\*Lateral consideration only, send applications to MARO/Personnel/Robbinsville, N.J. for vacancy in Richmond, Virginia

\*\*Local Commuting Area

\*\*\*All Sources

\*\*\*\*USDA-wide

\*\*\*\*\*Government-wide

\*\*\*\*\*FNS-Headquarters

\*\*\*\*\*HNIS only

PED - Personnel Division

PAD - Program Accountability Division

FM - Financial Management

PID - Program Information Division

ASD - Administrative Services Division

IRMD - Information Resources Management Division; Minneapolis, Minnesota

HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service

## Officers-in-Charge Meet in Richmond



Bob Jasper, Assistant U.S. Attorney, was a guest speaker at a meeting for Mid-Atlantic Region Officers-in-Charge (OIC) in Richmond, Virginia.

Jasper gave an interesting presentation on preparing for court appearances and giving depositions. He provided insight into the significance of signing a deposition, the importance of responding timely to deposition requests, the value of providing explicit information, and the protection afforded by the Privacy Act. He told the OICs "to tell the truth, not to speculate, and that it's OK to say, 'I don't know.'"

Jasper distributed a useful handout that provides tips on preparing to testify. The audience agreed that Jasper's presentation was timely and relevant in light of the recent increase in field assistance to U.S. attorneys.

The OICs also discussed program workplans, special projects, quality control, fiscal year 1986 agency priorities, child care reviews, the Family Day Care Project, and automated systems for their offices. Topics at the meeting were presented by regional office staffers Steve Robbins, Family Nutrition Programs Supervisor; Andrea Czajkowski and Joyce Field, Food Program Specialists for Child Care Food; Ed Sheldon, Systems Analyst,

Financial Management; Andy Hornsby, Regional Administrator; and John McClellan, Deputy Regional Administrator.

After the 2 1/2-day meeting, Certificates of Merit were awarded to Lloyd Wilson, OIC, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Claudia Bache, a secretary in the Richmond, Virginia office. Wilson also was given a Certificate of Merit to present to his staff member Gerry Repasky, Food Program Specialist. OIC Joe Devereaux, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania was given one to award to his secretary Connie Carlson.

-Story and Photo by MARO  
Public Affairs Staff

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